

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

I claim:

1. (currently amended) A frame for use as part of a sheet material mounting assembly, comprising:

an upper channel having an upper flange defined therein;

a first leg connected to the upper channel, the first leg adapted to be connected to a support structure; and

a second leg connected to the upper channel.

2. (original) The frame of claim 1, wherein the upper channel is approximately rectangular-shaped.

3. (currently amended) The frame of claim 2, wherein
~~the first leg is adapted to be connected to a support structure; and~~
the second leg is adapted to rest against the support structure.

4. (original) A frame assembly for use as part of a sheet material mounting assembly, comprising:

a lower frame, the lower frame including a stop segment, an upper frame segment connected to and approximately perpendicular to the stop segment and extending upward away from the stop segment, and a lower frame segment connected to and approximately perpendicular to the stop segment and extending downward away from the stop segment; and

a tension frame member adjustably connected to the lower frame so that the tension frame member can move relative to the stop.

5. (currently amended) ~~The frame assembly of claim 4, wherein the tension frame member includes:~~ A frame assembly for use as part of a sheet material mounting assembly, comprising:

a lower frame, the lower frame including a stop segment, an upper frame segment connected to and approximately perpendicular to the stop segment and extending upward away from the stop segment, and a lower frame segment connected to and approximately perpendicular to the stop segment and extending downward away from the stop segment; and

a tension frame member adjustably connected to the lower frame so that the tension frame member can move relative to the stop, the tension frame member comprising:

an upper tension segment;

an intermediate segment connected to and approximately perpendicular to the upper tension segment;

a lower tension segment connected to and approximately perpendicular to the intermediate segment, the lower tension segment including a lower channel having a lower flange defined therein;

the upper tension segment extending upward away from the intermediate segment and the lower tension segment extending downward away from the intermediate segment;

a nut segment connected to and approximately perpendicular to the intermediate segment, the nut segment extending upward away from the intermediate segment; and

wherein the upper tension segment and the nut segment form a nut channel.

6. (original) The frame assembly of claim 5, wherein the lower channel is approximately rectangular-shaped.

7. (original) The frame assembly of claim 6, wherein:

the upper frame segment includes a frame tab extending outward away from and approximately perpendicular to the upper frame segment; and

the upper and lower frame segments are offset from and approximately parallel to each other.

8. (original) The frame assembly of claim 7, wherein the lower frame is adapted to be connected to a support structure.

9. (original) A sheet material assembly, comprising:

an upper frame;

an adjustable lower frame assembly;

sheet material, having an upper sheet tab inserted into the upper frame and a lower sheet tab attached to the adjustable lower frame assembly, extending between the upper frame and the adjustable lower frame assembly; and

wherein the adjustable lower frame assembly can be adjusted to vary the tension in the sheet material between the upper frame and the adjustable lower frame assembly.

10. (original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein:

the upper frame includes an upper channel having an upper flange defined therein; and

the adjustable lower frame assembly includes a lower channel having a lower flange defined therein.

11. (original) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the upper and lower sheet tabs are wedge-shaped.

12. (original) The assembly of claim 11, wherein the upper and lower channels are approximately rectangular-shaped channels.

13. (original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein the adjustable lower frame assembly includes:

a lower frame having a stop defined therein; and

a tension frame member adjustably connected to the lower frame so that the tension frame member can move relative to the stop.

14. (original) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the upper frame and the adjustable lower frame assembly are mounted on a support structure.

15. (original) The assembly of claim 14, wherein the support structure includes a truck, building, or billboard.

16. (original) A method of mounting sheet material, comprising the steps of:

inserting an upper sheet tab connected to the sheet material into an upper frame;

attaching a lower sheet tab connected to the sheet material to an adjustable lower frame assembly; and

adjusting the adjustable lower frame assembly so that the sheet material is pulled taut between the upper frame and the adjustable lower frame assembly.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of inserting the upper sheet tab into the upper frame includes the steps of:

inserting the upper sheet tab into an upper channel defined in the upper frame; and

pulling the upper sheet tab against an upper flange defined in the upper channel.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of inserting the upper sheet tab into the upper channel includes the step of inserting a wedge-shaped upper sheet tab into the upper channel.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of attaching the lower sheet tab to the adjustable lower frame assembly includes the step of inserting the lower sheet tab into the adjustable lower frame assembly.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of inserting the lower sheet tab into the lower frame assembly includes the steps of:

inserting the lower sheet tab into a lower channel defined in the lower frame assembly; and

pulling the lower sheet tab against a lower flange defined in the lower channel.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of inserting the lower sheet tab into the lower channel includes the step of inserting a wedge-shaped lower sheet tab into the lower channel.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

mounting the upper frame on a support structure; and

mounting the lower frame assembly on the support structure below the upper frame.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of mounting the lower frame assembly on the support structure includes the steps of:

mounting a lower frame to the support structure; and

adjustably connecting a tension frame member to the lower frame so that the tension frame member can move relative to a stop defined in the lower frame.

24. (original) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of adjustably connecting the tension frame member to the lower frame includes the steps of:

inserting a nut in a nut channel defined in the tension frame member; and

passing a bolt through the stop defined in the lower frame and the tension frame member into engagement with the nut.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the steps of mounting the upper frame and the lower frame assembly on the support structure include the steps of mounting the upper frame and lower frame assembly on a truck, building, or billboard.

26. (new) A flexible sheet mounted on an adjustable frame assembly, comprising:

a first non-adjustable frame comprising:

a first channel having a first flange defined therein; and

a first leg connected to the first channel, the first leg adapted to be fixedly connected to a support structure;

a first adjustable frame comprising:

a fixed frame member comprising

a fixed frame segment adapted to be fixedly connected to a support structure; and

a stop segment connected to and extending from the fixed frame segment;

a tension frame member comprising:

a tension segment, the tension segment including a second channel having a second flange defined therein; and

an intermediate segment connected to and extending from the tension segment; and

a tensioning member adjustably connected to the stop segment and connected to the intermediate segment; and

a flexible sheet extending between the first non-adjustable frame and the first adjustable frame, the sheet having an first sheet tab inserted into the first channel and a second sheet tab inserted into the second channel; and

wherein, the tensioning member is adapted to adjustably position the intermediate segment a selected distance from the stop segment so as to provide and adjust tension in the sheet between the first adjustable frame and the first non-adjustable frame.

27. (new) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the first channel is approximately rectangular-shaped and wherein the second channel is approximately rectangular-shaped.

28. (new) The assembly of claim 26, wherein the first and second sheet tabs are wedge-shaped.

29. (new) The assembly of claim 26, further comprising:

a second non-adjustable frame disposed adjacent to and extending perpendicularly from the first non-adjustable frame; and

a second adjustable frame disposed adjacent to and extending perpendicularly from the first adjustable frame,

wherein the flexible sheet extends between the second non-adjustable frame and the second adjustable frame, the sheet having a third sheet tab inserted into the second non-adjustable frame and a fourth sheet tab inserted into the second adjustable frame; and

wherein, the second adjustable frame is adapted to provide and adjust tension in the sheet between the second adjustable frame and the second non-adjustable frame.
